

**Teaching of Urdu in Kendriya Vidyalayas**

3108. SHRI MOHD. AZAM KHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of Kendriya Vidyalayas in the country; and

(b) what is the number of Kendriya Vidyalayas out of them, where Urdu is being taught as a subject?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) There are 852 Kendriya Vidyalayas in the Country.

(b) 'Urdu' as a subject is taught in Kendriya Vidyalayas to students in classes IV to VIII wherever 20 or more students express an interest to study the subject. Information of such schools is not centrally maintained.

**Institutes for higher education and vocational education**

†3109. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

DR. D. MASTHAN:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of applications for setting up Institutes for higher education and for vocational education in the country are pending with Government for necessary official approval;

(b) if so, the total number of such applications pending till December, 2000;

(c) the number of such applications which have been lying pending for more than a year; and

(d) whether Government would bring any improvement in administrative procedure and system to prevent delays in approval?

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.